

[Acx IV]

not sit in the same room with her.
 It was absolutely
 shameless, the whole thing.
Lady Windermere. Arthur, I can't bear it any
 longer. I must
 tell you. Last night

*Enter Parker with a tray on which lie. Lady
 Windermere* \$
 fan and a card.*

Parker. Mrs. Erlynne has called to return your
 ladyship's fan
 which she took away by mistake last night.
 Mrs. Erlynne
 has written a message on the card.

Lady Windermere. Oh, ask Mrs. Erlynne to be
 kind enough to
 come up. *[Reads card.]* Say I shall be very
 glad to see her.

[Eocit Parker]

She wants to see me, Arthur.
Lord Windermere. *[Takes card and looks at it.]*
 Margaret, I beg

you not to. Let me see her first, at any rate.
 She's a very
 dangerous woman. She is the most
 dangerous woman I
 know. You don't realize what you're doing.
Lady Windermere. It is right that I should see
 her.

Lord Windermere. My child, you may be on the
 brink of a
 great sorrow. Don't go to meet it. It is
 absolutely necessary
 that I should see her before you do.

Lady Windermere. Why should it be necessary?

Enter Parker.

Parker. Mrs. Erlynne.

Enter Mrs. Erlynne.

[Eocit Parker]

Mrs. Erlynne. How do you do, Lady Windermere?

*[To Lord
 Windermere ^* How do you do? Do you know,
 Lady
 Windermere, I am so sorry about your fan. I
 can't imagine
 how I made such a silly mistake. Most stupid
 of me. And
 as I was driving in your direction, I thought I
 would take
 the opportunity of returning your property in
 person with
 many apologies, for my carelessness, and of
 bidding you
 good-bye.

Lady Windermere. Good-bye? *[Moves towards sofa
 with Mrs.
 Erlynne and sits down beside her.]* Are you going
 away, then,
 Mrs. Erlynne?

Mrs. Erlynne. Yes; I am going to live abroad
 again. The
 English climate doesn't suit me. My—heart is
 affected here,
 and that I don't like. I prefer living in the
 south. London
 is too full of fogs and—and serious people, Lord
 Windermere.